

3 October 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

Subject: National Situation Reports

1. The purpose of this paper is to suggest publication of "National Situation Reports" and certain modifications in the present "Situation Reports". This proposal is prompted by a recent review of the records and correspondence pertaining to Situation Reports, and the position they occupy in the intelligence program.

2. There is reason to believe that the present "Situation Report", resulted from an attempt to satisfy two different requirements with one publication. The request from ONI for a series of "brief studies" on selected countries or areas seemed to coincide with the CIG program for the production of "Situation Reports". It was clearly indicated that these reports were intended for use by IAB agencies and lower echelons. In satisfying the requirements of ONI, the original concept of a situation report was altered, to the extent that the present publication does not meet the requirement for a situation report. It is believed that it is more properly identified as a "Brief Study". Since it does provide an essential service to one or more IAB agencies, continued production under the title of "Brief Study", appears desirable as a valuable contribution to the intelligence program.

3. In consideration of this development it is suggested that a requirement exists for a "National Situation Report". Such a report to have a twofold purpose: first, to bring into sharp focus the strategic considerations affecting U.S. security; and second, to indicate probable future developments affecting U.S. security. In order to accomplish this purpose it must be a brief, highly readable document that will attract the attention of high government officials on significant situations existing in foreign countries. It is suggested that this report be similar to the format attached hereto.

4. In addition to specific requests for National Situation Reports, that may be received from time to time, it is believed consideration should be given to the feasibility of a monthly "National Situation Report", covering the country or area reflecting the most significant situations, or changes in situations, with respect to U.S. security.

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5. It is recommended that:

a. A production schedule be established for a series of "National Situation Reports".

b. National Situation reports be established as a separate and distinct series from any reports now published.

c. The format of a "National Situation Report" conform generally to the outline attached hereto.

d. The present series of "Situation Reports" be re-titled "Brief Studies".

e. Not more than one "Brief Study" be published for any one country or area.

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Chief, ICAPS

Att. 1

Outline of Situation Report.

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